

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 003512
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:FGWISNER:SBA

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

AF:WESCHAUFELE, JR.

S/S- SESTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 003512

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR,RH

SUBJECT: JOSHUA NKOMO AND THE SAUDIS

REF: STATE 129; STATE 190448

1. OUR ASSESSMENT OF NKOMO AND HIS POTENTIAL HAS NOT CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THE INFORMATION WE PROVIDED IN STATE 190448. DURING THE COURSE OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, NKOMO PROVED HIMSELF TO BE A TOUGH AND WILY NEGOTIATOR. HIS ALLIANCE WITH MUGABE AND MUGABE'S RADICAL COHORTS, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS IS AN UNEASY, TACTICAL ARRANGEMENT AND HAS NOT INDUCED NKOMO TO ABANDON HIS PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO RHODESIA'S FUTURE.

2. NKOMO IS ESSENTIALLY A MAN INTERESTED IN POWER. HE KEEPS HIS LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS OPEN TO RADICALS AND SECRET

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MODERATES IN AFRICA, AS WELL AS TO OURSELVES AND THE SOVIETS. HE ENJOYS BROAD AFRICAN SUPPORT. PRIOR TO AND DURING GENEVA, NKOMO HAS IMPROVED HIS POSITION WITH THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND THE AFRICANS MOST INTERESTED IN RHODESIA'S FUTURE. IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS TO MAKE SURE THAT AS MANY MODERATES AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING THE SAUDIS, ARE IN TOUCH WITH HIM. FOR THE REASONS YOU

CITED AS WELL AS THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A POSITION

OF NEUTRALITY DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAVE NOT
EMBRACED NKOMO AND HIS FACTION.

3. THOUGH BETTER FINANCED THAN MOST, NKOMO'S NEEDS ARE
CONSIDERABLE. HE OPERATES AN EXTENSIVE POLITICAL
NETWORK IN RHODESIA, AND MAINTAINS A SIGNIFICANT EXTERNAL
POLITICAL AND MILITARY ORGANIZATION. HE IS CERTAIN TO
ASK THE SAUDIS FOR SUPPORT.

KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALISTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
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Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE003512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FGWISNER:SBA
Enclosure: FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840081-2073
Format: TEL
From: STATE AF
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770171/aaaacjro.tel
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Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 129, 76 STATE 190448, 76 STATE 129
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3642994
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOSHUA NKOMO AND THE SAUDIS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, PINR, RH, SA, (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cf8b30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009